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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/769,563	01/30/2004	Cesare Ronsisvalle	856063.761	5861
38106	7590	03/29/2005		EXAMINER
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092			FORDE, REMMON R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2826	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/769,563	RONISVALLE, CESARE
	Examiner Remmon R. Fordé	Art Unit 2826

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/30/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Own Admitted Prior Art, Figures 1 and 2, in view of Aiello et al..

Referencing Figures 1 and 2, the following is disclosed: an emitter switching configuration (1), provided with at least one bipolar transistor (T1) and a double-diffusion type MOS transistor (M1) having a common conduction terminal (E1=D1); a semiconductor substrate (21) having a first conductivity type (n); a first buried layer (22) having a second conductivity type (p) and a second buried layer (23) having the first conductivity type (n) are formed, the first (22) and second (23) buried layers covered by an epitaxial layer (24) having the first conductivity type (n), the first buried layer (22) forming, by means of first wells (29) of the second conductivity type (p) a control terminal (B1) of the bipolar transistor (T1), and the second buried layer (23) forming the common conduction terminal (E1=D1).

Referencing Figures 1 and 2, all features claimed by Applicant is disclosed except a zener diode inserted between the control terminal (B1) of the bipolar transistor (T1) and the common conduction terminal (E1=D1).

However, referencing Figure 1, Aiello et al. discloses an emitter switching configuration device wherein a zener diode (B) is inserted between a control terminal (B_h) of a bipolar transistor (T_h) and the emitter terminal (E_l) of a second bipolar transistor (T_l). Aiello further discloses that the zener diode (B) serves the purpose of quenching the emitter switching configuration device. (Column 1, lines 40-57.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a zener diode between the control terminal (B₁) of the bipolar transistor (T₁) and the common conduction terminal (E₁=D₁) in the emitter switching configuration device as disclosed by Applicant's Own Admitted Prior Art, Figures 1 and 2, because Aiello discloses that the zener diode (B) serves the purpose of quenching the emitter switching configuration device. (Column 1, lines 40-57.)

Relevant Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Leonardi et al. and Patti each disclose emitter switching configuration devices.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Remmon R. Fordé whose telephone number is (571) 272-1916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Remmon R. Fordé

NATHAN J. FLYNN
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